

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending. Claims 1, 2, and 6 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, and 5 are pending.

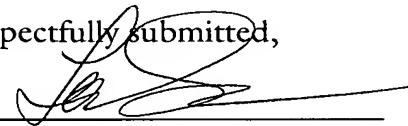
Claims 1, 2, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,652 to Smith. Claims 1, 2, and 6 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3-5 are allowable subject to being written in independent form. Claim 3 has been written in independent format to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 3 is thus allowable over the cited prior art. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3 and are likewise allowable.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: December 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371  
Peter McGee

Registration No.: 35,947  
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP  
2101 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1526  
(202) 785-9700  
Attorneys for Applicant